

OUTER COURT COMMUNICATIONS



ISSUE 86-5

OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT, P.O. BOX 1366, NASHUA, NH 03061 WHOLE NO. 42

HANS HOLZER visits Our Lady of Enchantment.

Hans Holzer is the author of more than 80 books, was writer/producer of the NBC series "In Search Of" during 1976-77, and has a number of television documentaries to his credit.

October 28th, marked the first anniversary of the Metaphysical Center and it was indeed a pleasure to welcome Hans Holzer to our celebration. I am sure I can speak for all when I say that "Mr. Holzer was a delight to be with." He is friendly, well educated and knowledgeable in the ways of the Wicca Craft.

Mr. Holzer's lecture to the group concerned paganism, Witchcraft and the occult in general. Mr. Holzer speaks from experience as he has been initiated in many different traditions and holds his third degree priesthood in several of them. We highly recommend his past books and suggest students keep a look out for future publications by Mr. Holzer.



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Special Priesthood Training Program -

This special program is intended for those students who wish to be trained within a structured-initiatory system. Participants in this special program will have the option of studying in theory or with initiation as their goal. All will be awarded certificates upon satisfactory completion of the course.

The program includes reviews of fundamental Wiccan theology, laws and procedures. Special interest is given to the aspects of archetypes and their use, power and purpose during ritual. The techniques of high and low magick along with basic metaphysics and group dynamics are an ongoing and intrinsic part of each training session. To further help with the students understanding of the practical application of Wicca and magic there will be plenty of hands on experience to instill a proper working knowledge of the Craft. Each special session is scheduled so the student will be able to participate in a Friday night church and Great Day Sabbat.

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THE HISTORICAL KING ARTHUR

The most important thing to learn about the real Arthur is that he was not a king. Instead he was a leader in battle, or a commander-in-chief, who lived in Britan around the year 500 A.D. This was long before suits of armor or stone castles existed. Arthur lived in an earthen "hill fort" of the ancient Celtic type.

We know very little about what Arthur actually achieved. What is believed, however, is that after many battles he was able to defeat his enemies at a place called Mount Badon. This victory resulted in a period of peace for his countrymen, the Britons. Thus for the first time in many years Britan was free from nearly constant war.

Although chaos and turmoil returned to Arthur's homeland after his death, his countrymen were proud of him. Tales of his greatness in battle soon began to spread throughout the country. Before long all of Britan knew about the bold Arthur and his deeds. As the tales of Arthur were passed on from one storyteller to another, people began to add their own details to the actual story.

When the first books were finally written about Arthur there were many tales in existance. Some writers created stories about Arthur's brave knights. Another writer added the idea that Arthur held court and banquets at a round table so that there would be no head of the table, and everyone would have equal rank. Still another wrote that Arthur might one day return from death to rule again.

Through ages of retelling the historical Arthur has been lost, to be replaced by the ageless King Arthur of Camelot. The fantasy in itself has become a reality; one of the greatest legends of the Western world.

Higgins Armory Museum, Worchester MA

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Magickal Book Reviews: by Firebear

A Dictionary of Symbols by Tom Chetwynd

(Paladin/Grafton Books - \$9.80 - 460 pages)

An Interview with Israel Regardie: His Final Thoughts and Views

Edited by Christopher Hyatt (Falcon Press - \$7.95 - 144 pages)

In the last issue of **Outer Court Communications** I reviewed The Underworld Initiation by R.J. Stewart, which discusses the actual and mythic history of the Western Magickal Tradition. The two books I now review also relate to that subject.

Tom Chetwynd's A Dictionary of Symbols is a good addition to the few up-to-date texts on magickal symbols that we have today. I have used it to explore images and events in dreams and have found it quite useful. The subjects are listed alphabetically, but because so many symbols have connections with other symbols - and because of the many possible meanings of a symbol - the book can appear to be disorganized and rambling. Do not despair! There is a 20-page index where you can locate everything from *Aaron's rod* to *Zombies*.

Where the abovementioned book is a competent reference to the symbolism discussed in The Underworld Initiation, the interview with Dr. Francis Israel Regardie will give you insight into the history and experience of one who actually traveled the Path of Magick. Dr. Regardie was largely responsible for the revival of interest in magick, the occult, and esoteric studies that we have enjoyed for the last 30 years. We are fortunate to have this interview, which took place not long before his death in 1985. Along with this rare interview, Hyatt has included a variety of essays and book introductions that the prolific Dr. Regardie wrote. The most exciting reading, however, is the actual interview with this man who accomplished so much in his lifetime - and yet who described himself as just "a perfectly ordinary guy...originally a little Jewish nonentity who somehow, with a stroke of good luck, got into things he could never have dreamed of - never."

Israel Regardie pontificated on Crowley, psychotherapy, Blavatsky, sex, Reich, Cosmic Foo-Foo, The Golden Dawn System of Magic, the secret chiefs, humor, wine, women, song, and Life. He was a scholar, a spiritual man, a practical man, and a happy, successful man. We could all learn from his example. Read An Interview with Israel Regardie, and learn from him. Blessed Be and Thank You, Regardie.

TODAY'S WORLD - CAN WICCA ADAPT?

The religion and philosophy of Wicca is primarily thought of as being concerned with nature. We have commonly defined ourselves as being a fertility and nature based system; and indeed from its beginnings in ages past 'the Craft' has dealt with nature and the fertility of man, crops and animals.

The fact remains that in the distant times in which Wicca began everything was concerned with man's interaction with nature and the promotion of fertility. For good or ill our world has changed, and so has the nature of our existence.

The majority of people today live in urban areas. The common man no longer worries after the crops and animals; most do not farm. Can the most ancient fertility religion apply in these times?

The beauty of Wicca is that it has the capacity for growth and expansion. We have deep and basic beliefs, but are not so adherent to dogma that the changing world around us must go unnoticed.

The ancient love of nature by Wiccans does not necessarily demand that we worship in the woods and deserted places; but rather that we keep a wonder and respect for nature and life - no matter where we may live. Our focus on fertility can also include the fertility of ideas and the growth of spiritual consciousness as well as procreation.

Wicca as a total religion and philosophy must seek its rightful place in the modern world as a valid system for human advancement. To do this, adaptation to current ideas is necessary to an extent. We need not to change and lose our heritage, but expand our existence to adapt for the passage of eons since our beginning.

This is being done in several ways, by the assimilation of new ideas and the furthering of old concepts. To be able to deal with the realities of today and still retain the flavor and substance of the 'Old Religion' must be a major goal. The future of Wicca is brighter than ever, for it has a solid base and the knowledge of the world to build on. Wicca can and will adapt to this age, and will surely offer to humanity a refreshing and yet practical path of spiritual growth.

by CASSIUS

WIZARD OF ID



By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



CRAFT PUBLICATIONS

CIRCLE NETWORK NEWS: Quarterly newspaper, Wiccan/Pagan articles and news. \$3/sample, \$9/year. Circle, PO Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

COUNCIL OF THE MAGICKAL ARTS: Quarterly journal, Wiccan/Pagan related. \$7/year. Council of the Magickal Arts, 5920 Bissonet 114, Houston, TX 77081

HARVEST: Published at Sabbats; Neo-Pagan journal, Wiccan/Pagan articles, news, and networking. \$2/sample, \$10/yearly. Harvest, PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701

MAGICKAL UNICORN MESSENGER: Quarterly publication of the Temple of Wicca. Articles, poems, festival news. \$7/yearly. Temple of Wicca, PO Box 1302, Findlay, OH 45839

OF A LIKE MIND: Quarterly newspaper, published by and for women; also networking membership. \$2.50/sample, \$10/yearly. Of A Like Mind, PO Box 6201, Madison, WI 53716

PAGANA: Sabbats, Pagan/Wiccan/Occult, a special interest group of Mensa. \$2/sample, \$12/year (6 issues). Zephyr Starwater, PO Box 9494, San Jose, CA 95157

PAGAN PARENTS LEAGUE NEWSLETTER: For Pagan parents. PO Box 423-P, Bay Shore, NY 11706

PAGAN UNITY NEWS: Quarterly networking publication for the Wiccan/Pagan community. \$2/sample, \$7/yearly. Northern Way, Inc., 6030 W. Roosevelt Rd., Oak Park, IL 60304

PANEGYRIA: The newsletter of the Aquarian Tabernacle Church, \$8/yearly. PO Box 85507, Seattle, WA 98145

SEASONAL SILVER: Nature/Humanitarian quarterly newsletter. \$2/sample, \$8/yearly. PO Box 189, Alpharetta, GA 30201

THUNDERBOW: Monthly newsletter with a good individual viewpoint. \$6/yearly. Church of the Seven Arrows, 4385 Hoyt St. - #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033

THE UNICORN: Published at Sabbats, newsletter format. \$10/yearly. The Rowan Tree, Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408 (Also the location of The Rowan Tree Herb Shop)

THE UPPER TRIAD: A journal of metaphysical, theosophical, and esoteric philosophy. Free/monthly. The Upper Triad, PO Box 1370, Manassas, VA 22110-1370

CELTIC WOMEN OF YORE 'THE DOMINANT SEX'

The women of ancient Ireland dominated their society, casting fear and trepidation into the hearts of male warriors of the time, new evidence discovered by Celtic scholars suggests.

Patrick Ford, who has researched the matter in detail, said: "Certianly the woman was not the tender sex or the soft sex or the sex that needed protection. On the contrary, women were as fierce and to be dreaded as much as men."

Ford, a professor at UCLA and a leading Celtic scholar, said recent study of ancient and medieval writing "leaves no doubt that Celtic women were terrifying and powerful," he said.

The Greeks and Romans, who fought the Celtic barbarians in Europe, had quite a bit to say about the women. "They described the Celtic men as very powerfully built, with drooping moustashes and so fearless that they sometimes went to battle naked. But when they talk about Celtic women, they say that if the men were powerful and terrifying, the women were more so."

"One writer says that if a Celt calls his wife in to help him in a battle, the opponent has no chance whatsoever." "The battlefield was the domain of the war goddess," he said. She often uses sexual prowess to interfere in war, sometimes to overcome the enemy, sometimes to reward the warrior. "...Her game is war," Ford said.

The Celts, the ancient race from which the Irish and Welsh descended, were the pre-eminent people of Europe, the first users of iron. And in the Celtic tribes, women were the chiefs, Ford said. He cited Queen Cartimandua and Queen Boudicca in the 1st Century A.D.

Even later, when laws were formulated in Ireland, he said women had equality or what was called "joint sovereignty" in marriage.

There are many other cultures, such as the Amazon, where female dominance is legendary, he said. "But nowhere is it as articulated as in Ireland."

from the Boston Herald



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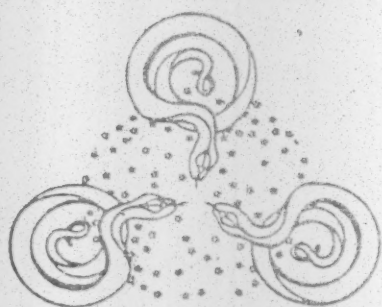
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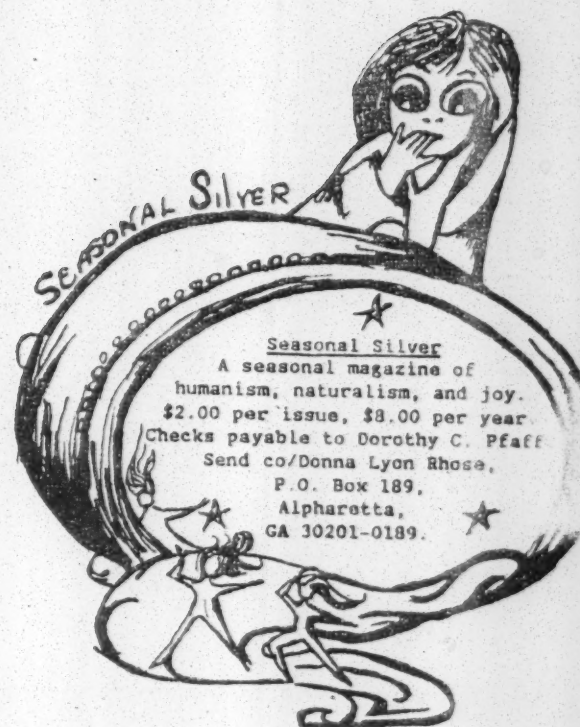
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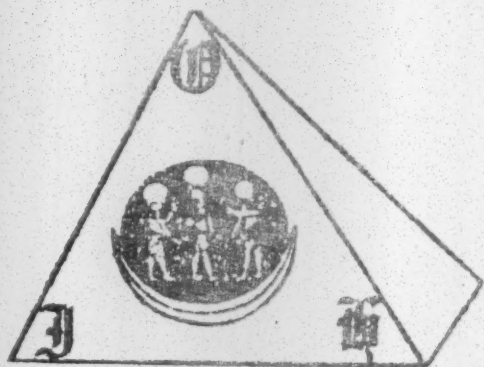
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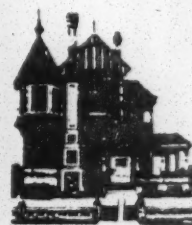
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REBIRTH OF THE SUN GOD

Yule / Winter Solstice Ritual

This ritual is designed to welcome back the life giving energy of the Sun and the promise of new beginnings which it brings. This is the shortest day and longest night of the year, Death is all around us and life springs forth once more as the Sun God returns. Now is the time to make plans for the Spring and Summer and those things you wish to bring into manifestation.

The altar is covered with a red cloth and adorned with red candles, holly, pine cones, or any seasonal symbol which speaks of celebration. Pine incense, red wine and cakes will be needed in addition to regular altar tools and a large red (working) candle.

RITUAL LITURGY

HPS: Lights Altar candles saying: I light the night which they have made, may darkness flee this temple. I light the path which they have set, may we continue in their wisdom.

HP: Consecrates the circle with salt and water saying: Let the salt of the earth bless all within, and the waters of life bring forth new beginnings. So Be It.

HPS: will now cast the circle and the HP: will call in the Guardians of the Watchtowers.

MEMBER: Comes forward and lights the working candle saying:

Lord of Fire, Lord of light,
Return to us this Solstice night!

ALL MEMBERS repeat the following;

Ayea, Ayea, Cernunnos
Ayea, Ayea, Cernunnos
Ayea, Ayea, Cernunnos
Ayea, Ayea, Ayea!

HPS: Takes the pine cones and holly offers it to the group as a representation of the Goddess for the season saying;

Behold the light of all life ,
Which is kindled in the womb.
Behold the origin of all things,
Which is the rebirth of the Sun.

ALL MEMBERS repeat the following;

Behold the light of all life
Hail to thee Cerridwen
Behold the origin of all things
Hail to thee Cernunnos

HP; faces the group and says;

Blessed are the signs of winter
Which remind us of the wonders past
For now do we look upon that which is outworn
Not with regret but rather as guidance for the future.

ALL MEMBERS take hands and chant the following as they meditate upon the future possibilities they wish to bring into manifestation;

GOD OF GLORY
GOD OF LIGHT
RETURN TO US
THIS SOLSTICE NIGHT

HPS: and HP: will now bless the cakes and wine and everyone will partake of them in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust.

HPS

Blessed be this wine a gift from the God
May all experience the truth and wisdom
Which comes from the eternal spirit
And be delivered from darkness this night
Unto the fresh light of new beginnings

HP

Bleak and barren above
Rich and resting below
Hearts find what eyes see not
May these riches of the Earth Mother
Bring each a measure of spiritual fulfillment

When all have finished with cakes and wine the HPS and HP will dismiss the Guardians and banish the circle. Feast should follow.

****Note: This is a shortened version of Yule. Complete copies of all Sabbat rituals available from Our Lady Of Enchantment.****